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Congressman Gary Miller Praises Suspension of Enrollment Freeze at Inland Empire Job Corps Center

Washington, DC –Today, Congressman Gary Miller (CA-31) praised the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) suspension of its freeze on new student enrollment at the nation’s 125 Job Corps Centers.

Earlier this year, the DOL, citing a \$61.5 million shortfall, announced an enrollment freeze for all Job Corps Centers – including the Inland Empire Job Corps Center in San Bernardino – through June 2013. Congressman Miller joined a bipartisan group of seventy-one lawmakers in calling on the Department to prevent the freeze and find alternative cost savings so that more at-risk students could continue to benefit from the workforce training and educational programs that the Job Corps Centers provide.

Congressman Miller remarked, “The end of the enrollment freeze is terrific news for students in San Bernardino County. Recently, I had the opportunity to tour the Inland Empire Job Corps Center, which is doing incredible work helping young adults in our community acquire the education and job skills they need to compete and succeed in today’s economy. I am pleased that more students will now have the opportunity to benefit from the Center’s high-quality education and job-training programs.”

The Inland Empire Job Corps Center, located in San Bernardino, is a residential program for low-income, at-risk students ages 16 to 24. The Center provides academic support and hands-on career training in a wide variety of fields, from construction and manufacturing to health care, retail services, and hospitality. For 2012, the Center ranked third overall among all the nation’s Job Corps Centers, and was second in the nation for the number of students who graduated from the Center with a high school diploma or GED.

Congressman Miller also demanded that the Department of Labor substantially improve its administration of the program, saying, “It is unacceptable that vulnerable students were denied access to essential education and job training due to financial mismanagement of Job Corps funds. It is absolutely essential that the Department improve its management and oversight practices in order to prevent this situation from occurring again.”

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